

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CAB-05 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

INR-07 FAA-00 EA-10 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 USSS-00 SCCT-01 OPR-02 A-01

SCSE-00 SCA-01 /085 W

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O 171300Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL BARCELONA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3139

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS BARCELONA 0330

E.O. LL652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SP

SUBJECT: FIREBOMBING OF PAN AM OFFICES IN BARCELONA

1. AT 9:00 P.M. FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 16, 1975, A GROUP OF 5 OR 6 YOUTHS BROKE TWO WINDOWS IN THE MAIN OFFICE OF PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS IN BARCELONA AND THREW A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL INTO THE TICKET OFFICE IN WHAT THEY CALLED A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE AMERICAN USE OF FORCE AGAINST CAMBODIA IN FREEING THE MERCHANT SHIP MAYAGUEZ. NO ONE WAS INJURED BUT DAMAGE MAINLY CAUSED BY SMOKE WAS ESTIMATED AT 200,000 PESETAS (APPROX. DOLS 3,500).

2. LEAFLETS WRITTEN IN CATALAN AN(READ IN CATALAN) AND SIGNED BY THE SOCIALIST PARTY FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERATION OF THE CATALAN COUNTRIES (PARTIT SOCIALISTA D'ALLIBERAMENT NATIONAL DELS PAISOS CATALANS) WERE SCATTERED IN THE STREET. THEY REFERED TO THE VICTORY OF CAMBODIAN POPULAR NATIONALIST FORCES ON APRIL 17 AND DENOUNCED U.S. CAPITALISTS FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT TO USE ITS ARMED FORCES AGAINST CAMBODIAN

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LESS THAN ONE MONTH LATER. THE WORKING CLASS OF THE CATALAN

COUNTRIES, IT SAID, WISHED TO MANIFEST THEIR SOLIDARITY
WITH THOSE WHO STRUGGLE TO BUILD SOCIALISM IN ALL THE NATIONS
OF THE WORLD.

3. DAMAGES AT PAN AM CAUSED BY FLAMES WERE SLIGHT, ONLY
A CHAIR AND ABOUT 10 SQ- FT. OF FLOOR COVERING BURNED, BUT SMOKE
BLACKENED THE ENTIRE FRONT OFFICE. PAN AM OFFICIALS SAY
THEY WILL HAVE TO PAINT THE OFFICE AND REPLACE THE FLOOR
COVERING. INSURANCE WILL COVER MOST OF THE DAMAGES. PAN AM
HAS RECENTLY BEEN HAVING LABOR DISPUTES CONNECTED WITH CLOSING-
OUT THEIR BARCELONAS SERVICE, BUT THERE IS NO SIGN THAT THE
INCIDENT WAS RELATED TO THE LABOR DISPUTE.

4. POLICE HAVE GIVEN MINOR IMPORTANCE TO THE INCIDENT,
TERMING IT ONE OF MANY SUCH SEPARATIST DISTURBANCES. ONE LOCAL
RESIDENT WHO OBSERVED THE INCIDENT POINTED OUT THAT LAST
YEAR'S (1974) MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION WAS MUCH MORE SERIOUS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, NAVAL COMBAT OPERATIONS, MAYAGUEZ SS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BARCEL00330
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750174-0503
From: BARCELONA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750540/aaaabkbp.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIREBOMBING OF PAN AM OFFICES IN BARCELONA
TAGS: PINS, SP, US, CB, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006